In consequence of a Notice published in the "Christian Register", and in the "Christian World" by the respective Editors of those papers, a number of Unitarian Ministers, about fifty in all, assembled in the Berry Street Vestry, Boston, on Thursday February 29. 1844, at 12 a.m. for the purpose of considering whether any, and, if any, what, reply should be made to the recently received Address from One Hundred & Eighty Five Unitarian Ministers of Great Britain and Ireland, on the subject of Slavery.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. J. K. Lothrop, Senior Editor of the "Register", who briefly stated the circumstances under which the Editors of the "Register" and of the "World" had called the meeting.

Rev. Dr. Francis, of Cambridge, was chosen Moderator. Rev. Samuel May, of Leicester, was chosen Secretary.

On motion of Rev. J. F. Clarke, which was seconded, it was Voted, That other gentlemen, besides ministers, desirous of being present at this meeting, be invited to ~~attend~~ enter and take seats in the meeting.

Rev. Mr. Lothrop presented certain Resolutions for adoption by the meeting. Upon their being read, it was Voted, To take up the Resolutions in Order.

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The reading of the addess from the British Unitarian Ministers was called for; and it was read by the Secretary.

Rev. Mr. Pierpont moved the adoption of the first Resolution,- which was as follows;

1. Resolved. That it is expedeint that the Unitarian clergy of this County make some reply to the Letter recently addressed to them by a portion of the Unitarian clergy of Great Britain upon the subject of Slavery.

The motion was seconded by Rev. Mr. Stetson; and the Resolution was debated by Rev. Messrs. Ellis, Lothrop, Stetson, Dr. Parkman of Boston, Hodges, Allen of Northboro', Bigelow, Pierpont, J. F. Clarke, Thompson of Salem.

Rev. Mr. Morison moved to amend the resolution so that it should read, "Resolved, That it is expedeint that an answer be prepared to the Letter," &c. &c., which was seconded.

Without taking ~~the~~ question it was Voted, at 2 o'clock, To adjourn, to meet in same place at 3½ o'clock.

Afternoon. 3½ o'clock.

The Moderator ~~having authorised~~ not being present, and having authorised one of the brethren to say to the meeting that his duties at Cambridge would prevent his being present,

Rev. Joseph Allen of Northboro' was chosen Moderator, *pro tempore*.

Rev. Mr. Morison's amendment being in order it was unanimously Voted, to adopt said amendment.

Rev. Mr. May, the Secretary, having stated, in the meeting, that he had learned he had been represented by some of his brethren as having spoken of their course in relation to Slavery in terms of severity, during his late visit to Great Britain, asked permission to make to the meeting a statement of what he had said on this subject while abroad. Several of the brethren expressed a desire that he would do so. Accordingly, Mr. May here read a copy of a letter which he had addressed to the Rev. George Armstrong of Bristol, England, dated Geneva, October 9. 1843.

The debate on the 1st Resolution, as amended, was then continued by Rev. Messrs C. Brooks, ~~Stetson~~ C. Robbins, Ellis, Clarke, J. Parkman of Dover N. H., C. Stetson, S. J. May, Morison, Hodges, Nightingale.

The Resolution was then adopted, with only one dissenting voice. As amended, it reads as follows:

1. Resolved, That it is expedient that an answer be prepared to the Letter recently addressed to the Unitarian Clergy of this Country, by a portion of the Unitarian Clergy of Great Britain upon the Subject of Slavery

The 2d Resolution, as offered by Rev. Mr. Lothrop, was then unanimously adopted. It is as follows:

2. Resolved, That a Committee of five persons be appointed to prepare such reply.

The 6th Resolution, as offered by Rev. Mr. Lothrop, was then unanimously adopted, making the 3d. ~~of this~~ resolution of this meeting. It is as follows:

3. Resolved, That a Committee of nine gentlemen be now appointed by the Chair to select, and nominate to this meeting, the persons to compose

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the Committee proposed by in the 2d Resolution.

The Chair nominated the following as the Committee of Nine;

Rev. Mr. Lathrop, of Boston,
" Dr. Parkman "
" Mr. Clarke, "
" Mr. Young, "
" Mr. May of Lexington,
" Mr. Brooks of Boston,
" Mr. Parkman of Dover, N.H.
" Mr. Coolidge of Boston,
" Mr. Nightingale of Athol.

After a brief interval this Committee reported to the meeting the following names of gentlemen to compose the Committee of Five:

Rev. Andrew P. Peabody of Portsmouth, N.H.,
" E. S. Gannett, of Boston,
" S. J. May, of Lexington,
" J. H. Morison, of New Bedford,
" G. E. Ellis, of Charlestown.

Voted, unanimously, To accept the Report.

Rev. Mr. Gannett declined to act on the Committee, and Rev. S. K. Lothrop of Boston was chosen in his place.

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Voted, That the Committee of Five be authorised to fill any vacancy which may occur in their number,- the member resigning (if any such) being desired & hereby empowered to act with the others in the selection of his successor.

The remaining Resolutions in the series presented by Rev. Mr. Lothrop were not acted upon by the meeting. ~~[illegible]~~ The following Vote was then adopted without dissent.

Voted That when this meeting shall adjourn, it be to meet in this place on the second Thursday of April next, at 12 o'clock, A. M., to hear the Report of our Committee.

At about 6½ o'clock, Voted, To adjourn.

Sam[l] J. May. Secretary.

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Record of Meeting —
Berry St. Vestry —
Feb. 29. 1844.